

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 3/11/77

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Via CABLE _____ PRIORITY _____
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P 111530 MAR 77

FM BUENOS AIRES (109-2)

TO DIRECTOR (109-12-201) PRIORITY 054-11 5/3/01

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - ARGENTINA.

CLASSIFIED BY: 39063 E/W/BCE/sam
REASON: 1.5 (GD)
DECLASSIFY ON: X16
argentina project of the original

ON MARCH 10, 1977, A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ABROAD, WHO IS AN ACTIVE DUTY COLONEL IN THE ARGENTINE ARMY, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: ~~(S)~~ (U)

HARDLINE ELEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE ARMY HAVE BECOME COMPLETELY DISENCHANTED WITH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT LED BY THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA, ARGENTINE ARMY GENERAL JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA. ~~(S)~~ (U)

THESE DISENCHANTED ARGENTINE ARMY ELEMENTS INCLUDE KEY GENERALS HAVING TROOP COMMANDS, AS WELL AS THE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE OF ARGENTINA. THESE GENERALS BELIEVE THAT GENERAL VIDELA'S LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN WEAK AND TOO POPULIST TO COPE WITH PRESENT-DAY REALITIES IN ARGENTINA. ~~(S)~~ (U)

SPECIFICALLY THESE GENERALS STRONGLY OBJECT TO ANY DIALOGUE WITH THE LABOR UNION SECTOR, WHICH UNDER THE PREVIOUS PERONIST ~~(S)~~ (U)

RWS:jn (1)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

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1092-1745

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PAGE TWO ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUE 109-2

GOVERNMENTS WELDED A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF POLITICAL POWER AND AUTHORITY. IN ADDITION, THE GENERALS ARE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO ANY DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES IN ARGENTINA, AS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY GENERAL VIDELA, INASMUCH AS THESE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE IN THE PAST CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF LEADERSHIP AND ACTING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ARGENTINE NATION. IN ADDITION, THESE GENERALS BELIEVE THAT GENERAL VIDELA HAS NOT EXERTED PROPER LEADERSHIP, IN ORDER TO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA IN THE SOUTHERN CONE OF SOUTH AMERICA. THE GENERALS BELIEVE THAT GENERAL VIDELA HAS BEEN TOO SOFT AND HAS ALLOWED THE WAR ON TERRORISM TO DRAG ON TOO LONG, WHICH ULTIMATELY HAS CUASED PROBLEMS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ~~(S)~~ (U)

THE GENERALS INTEND TO OUST GENERAL VIDELA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND ALSO TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE PRESIDENCY. CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINE JUNTA. ALLEGEDLY, ADMIRAL MASSERA AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GENERALS AND HAS INDICATED THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY WOULD SUPPORT THE ARMY GENERALS IN OUSTING GENERAL VIDELA FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY. ADMIRAL MASSERA ~~(S)~~ (U)

RWS:jn (1)

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(Precedence)PAGE THREE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUE 109-2

REPORTEDLY HAS INFORMED THE GENERALS THAT IMPORTANT MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS IN THE ARGENTINE NAVY HAVE GROWN EXTREMELY IMPATIENT WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT UNDER GENERAL VIDELA'S LEADERSHIP AND BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE REMOVED. ADMIRAL MASSERA REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THESE MIDDLE GRADE ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICERS ARE HARDLINERS AND AGREED WITH THE GENERALS' POSITION THAT NO DIALOGUE OR CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO ARGENTINE LABOR UNIONS OR POLITICAL PARTIES. ~~(S)~~ (U)

IN ADDITION TO REMOVING GENERAL VIDELA, DISSIDENT ARMY GENERALS PLAN TO REMOVE THE FOLLOWING ARMY GENERALS WHOM THEY HAVE CHARACTERIZED AS POPULISTS: ~~(S)~~ (U)

GENERAL ALBANO HARGUIDEGUY, THE INCUMBENT MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR; GENERAL HORACIO TOMAS LIENDO, THE INCUMBENT MINISTER OF LABOR; GENERAL CARLOS DALLA TEA, THE COMMANDER OF THE GENDARMERIA (BORDER GUARDS); GENERAL RAMON GENARO DIAZ BESSONE, THE INCUMBENT MINISTER OF PLANNING; GENERAL ROBERT VIOLA, INCUMBENT CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF. ~~(S)~~ (U)

THE GENERALS; PLAN TO INSTALL GENERAL ANTONIO BUSSI, INCUMBENT GOVERNOR OF TUCUMAN PROVINCE, AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY THIRD CORPS, HEADQUARTERED IN CORDOBA. THEY PLAN TO DESIGNATE GENERAL SANTIAGO ~~(S)~~ (U)

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RIVEROS, INCUMBENT COMMANDER OF MILITARY INSTITUTES, AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY FIRST CORPS, HEADQUARTERED IN BUENOS AIRES. IT IS PLANNED TO DESIGNATE GENERAL RODOLFO MUJICA AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND GENERAL ADEL VILAS AS THE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE OF ARGENTINA. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY WILL BE GENERAL LUCIANO MENENDEZ AND FINALLY THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA WILL BE GENERAL CARLOS SUAREZ MASON. THE INCUMBENT CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE OF ARGENTINA, GENERAL EDMUNDO OJEDA, WILL BE GIVEN THE COMMAND OF A AS-OF-YET UNDETERMINED ARMY CORPS. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION, GENERAL OJEDA IS ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH THE DISSIDENT GENERALS AND RECENTLY COMPLETED A TOUR OF CORDOBA AND OTHER PROVINCES TO FURTHER THE GENERALS' PLAN TO DEPOSE GENERAL VIDELA UNDER THE PRETEXT OF INSPECTING VARIOUS FEDERAL POLICE OF ARGENTINA INSTALLATIONS. (S) (U)

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PAGE FIVE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUE 109-2

ADMINISTRATIVE - [SOURCE IS COLONEL ALBERTO VALIN, CHIEF,
ARGENTINE ARMY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.] ~~(S)~~ (U)

THE FOREGOING IS EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION AND ~~HAS BEEN~~ *WILL BE*
COORDINATED LOCALLY.

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